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day, indorsed by the Resident Commissioner from the Philippines, the Hon. Jaime C. de Veyra, who said:

I am perfectly in accord with the suggestion that our independence be granted in time for ratification by the after-war council. This is a wise step in view of the reiterated declarations of President Wilson and of the fact that the principle of self-definition is to be one of the unequivocal bases of a general peace.

Let us hope for "the Day" when the United States will set the example by its realization in the Philippines of the great world principle of self-determination.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

ERVING WINSLOW.

LABOR UNPREPAREDNESS

SIR,—Without attempting to apportion the blame for our culpable unpreparedness in spite of ample warning, and for our supineness, indifference and delay in asserting and maintaining our rights when they were trampled upon, which have beyond question prolonged the war, and caused incalculable loss both of life and treasure, it becomes every one's duty, if continuing unpreparedness is apparent in any direction, threatening our success now that we are in, to raise his voice in protest.

That unpreparedness does exist in connection with the labor situation, is as evident as that it can be remedied if considerations affecting politics are disregarded.

In a report submitted to the Senate on the 16th of January by a committee representing all the leading industrial and manufacturing associations throughout the country, it is stated that there are still constant strikes and threats of strikes in all sections with the sole purpose of preventing the employment of any but union labor. It is further stated, as must be evident to every one, that there is a wide and serious shortage of labor. This could not be otherwise when there is considered the abnormal demand for war work, the crying need for increased agricultural production, and the withdrawal already of more than a million men chiefly from the ranks of labor for service in the army.

That this shortage must steadily grow greater is plain. There will soon be another draft, taking another million from work. As they become soldiers and non-producers, the amounts of ammunition and military supplies for them must be enormously increased, requiring more employees, and almost more important, we must next Spring plant and later harvest greater food crops than ever before, for ourselves and our allies.

Where are the laborers coming from, and where are the 100,000 or more sailors to be had to operate our new merchant marine? We are told also on all sides that one of the principal reasons for coal shortage is lack of sufficient men on the railroads. We see already the farmers protesting against the shipyards and munition plants for luring their hands away from them by bidding as high as \$9 per day for workmen, and saying the result will surely be a decrease in the acreage planted instead of an increase.

The following contains the substance of reports received from all parts of the country by the New York Board of Trade and Transporta-

tion, written by State Commissioners of Agriculture or Masters of State Granges. It is testimony that can not be ignored or belittled:

Maine: Great shortage of farm labor; acreage probably will be reduced by one-fourth or one-third. Texas: More labor needed than ever before, but supply is much below normal. North Dakota: Alarming shortage; farmers discouraged and cannot plant for normal crop. Vermont: Shortage means a cut in production. Massachusetts: Serious situation; farmers cannot go ahead with only the help of boys and untrained workmen. Connecticut: Depressing conditions; farmers may try to raise only enough for their families. Rhode Island: Many will not plant as much as last year. New Jersey: Farmers think that planting of even the usual acreage will be very hazardous. Pennsylvania: Very great shortage of skilled farm labor; the exodus from farms has been continuous. Delaware: Unless relief comes, the usual acreage cannot be prepared. Maryland: Labor situation is acute. Virginia: Lack of labor, and acreage reduced accordingly. Georgia: Impossible to cultivate as much land as last year's area. Florida: Affected by loss of negro workmen drawn to the North; hope the Government will bring Porto Ricans. Ohio: Farmers discouraged and at their wits' ends. Indiana: Probably a reduction of acreage. Illinois: The number of idle acres will be increased.

Who is to be held responsible if the shortage thus indicated takes place? Surely the Administration, which has received repeated warnings.

Nor is it to be forgotten that we must, as fast as we send abroad soldiers, follow them up with an army of labor to do the work for them of supply, transportation, etc., behind the lines.

In the face of these well-known conditions, which must grow steadily worse, and the further fact that since the war began immigration, on which we have largely relied to keep up our labor supply, has practically ceased, there has been sent out from Labor Headquarters in Washington a camouflage statement to the effect that there is no shortage of labor; that any difficulty is solely due to faulty distribution which the authorities take it upon themselves to say they can and will remedy.

It is impossible to believe that the country will be lulled into a sense of false security by any such declaration, only to find itself again in a condition of entire unpreparedness to meet what is plainly ahead of us. Have we not already been taught the cost of such blind folly? Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, says there is no shortage. Mr. McAdoo, a little later, testified before the Senate Committee that there was a shortage, and the anthracite coal operators are calling for 25,000 more men.

Our experience in sending troops abroad shows that before planting time, with the help of Japan, we could bring here at least 200,000 laborers under contract till the end of the war, to be returned to where they came from just as was done in Cuba. They could be kept in cantonments and put under the control and direction of the Department of Labor, to be sent by it wherever they were needed, to do railroad, agricultural or munitions work. They make industrious, capable workers under direction, and can be had at reasonable wages. France is importing large numbers of them by way of Vancouver. Prison labor should also be utilized. Why not, in one particular, get ready beforehand, for what is surely coming?

One thing further is needed to make the country wholly efficient for its stupendous task. Prices of the leading commodities have been fixed. In order to stabilize them the men producing them should be called into the Government service at a fair and generous compensation and strikes forbidden. This is just as necessary, just as reasonable and just as per-

missible as it is to call men into the ranks of the army whose pay is fixed at only \$30. per month, no limit as to hours, and with anything like a strike punished as mutiny.

Such a condition would mean real thoroughgoing preparedness and efficiency. Nothing stands in the way of it but the timidity of politicians, which, to the great detriment of the country, was in glaring evidence at the time of the passage of the Adamson Bill. Is such timidity still sufficiently great and controlling to hamper and perhaps wholly thwart the efforts and sacrifices we are making to win the war? It will require the utmost exertion, the willing sacrifice, the unwavering courage of all classes, and the subordination of every political and selfish consideration to do it.

With every man capable of working in factory, field, shop, shipyard and munition plant declared to be in the service of the United States for the period of the war, with prices of commodities and wages fixed for definite periods at fair rates subject then to readjustment, and strikes forbidden, we should have stability of prices and wages, and an efficient democracy which no Power could resist.

Has Congress the courage to organize victory or shall we go limping and stumbling along as we have, wasting our resources, and not bringing to bear anything like our full strength?

It has been stated recently that 100,000 laborers are to be brought from the West Indies. There are three objections to this plan: They are needed where they are, to keep sugar production at the highest possible point; the number proposed is but a drop in the bucket; and they are well known to be nothing like as industrious, biddable and efficient as the Chinese.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ARCHIBALD HOPKINS.

ROOSEVELT AND WILSON

SIR,—In the January REVIEW we read that: “ * * * Mr. Roosevelt’s personal following is still the greatest and most devoted in the country. We wonder sometimes whether the President appreciates how many loyal citizens feel a sense of personal tragedy in the shelving of one who must be regarded as the most generally recognized, if not actually, the foremost patriot in the land.” A letter to the editor says: “ * * * Thousands feel that the President is playing pretty small politics in studiously ignoring the Colonel.” The *Outlook*, with which for years Roosevelt was officially connected, sets forth that, to head his Cabinet, Washington chose Jefferson, a leader who “ could never have been sympathetic to him ”, that Lincoln, in the dark days of 1860, called Stanton to take the Secretaryship of War, in spite of the fact that they were opposed in politics, that Stanton had been “ bitter in spirit and insulting in form ” in expression toward him. “ Yet Lincoln chose him. But that was Lincoln.”

Washington’s purpose was to lead in building up a wise and stable democratic government. Had Jefferson everywhere been proclaiming that “ when human nature had changed and the millennium had come ” a stable government could be built up, would Washington have chosen him?